United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea SPLOS/79

Meeting of States Parties

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Election of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General, in accordance with article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, addressed a note dated 29 November 2001 to States Parties inviting them to submit by 11 March 2002 the names of candidates whom their Governments might wish to nominate for the election of members of the Commission, together with statements of qualifications of such candidates.

2. In the note, the Secretary-General reminded States that the first election of the members of the Commission had been held in 1997 at the sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention. The members had been elected for a term of five years. He informed the States Parties that the second election of all 21 members of the Commission would be held at the twelfth Meeting of States Parties, to be held at United Nations Headquarters from 16 to 26 April 2002.

3. By the same note, the Secretary-General brought to the notice of Governments article 2, paragraph 1, of annex II, which provides that the members of the Commission shall be experts in the field of geology, geophysics or hydrography. In accordance with article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II, the submission of nominations should be made after appropriate regional consultations.

4. Nominations will close on 11 March 2002. States in the process of becoming a party to the Convention may also nominate candidates. Nominations received from States in the process of becoming a party to the Convention will remain provisional and will not be included in the list to be circulated by the Secretary-General in accordance with article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II unless the States concerned have deposited the instrument of their ratification or accession on or before Monday, 11 March 2002.

5. The Secretary-General addressed a further note dated 11 January 2002 to States drawing their attention to the previous note inviting nominations and reminding them of the closing date for receipt of nominations and the requirement

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that States that were not parties should have deposited their instruments of ratification or accession on or before 11 March 2002.

6. A list of all the persons nominated, in alphabetical order, with an indication of the States Parties which have nominated them, will be prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II to the Convention and will be circulated following the closure of nominations on 11 March 2002. The curricula vitae of the candidates will be circulated in document SPLOS/81 in advance of the opening of the twelfth Meeting of States Parties.

7. Article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II provides that elections of the members of the Commission shall be held at a meeting of States Parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters. At that meeting, for which two thirds of the States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Commission shall be those nominees who obtain a two-thirds majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting. Not less than three members shall be elected from each geographical region.

8. In accordance with article 2, paragraph 4, of annex II, the members of the Commission shall be elected for a term of five years and shall be eligible for re-election.

9. Article 2, paragraph 5, of annex II stipulates that the State Party which submitted the nomination of a member of the Commission shall defray the expenses of that member while in performance of Commission duties. The coastal State concerned shall defray the expenses incurred in respect of the scientific and technical advice referred to in article 3, paragraph 1 (b), of annex II to the Convention.